



**Nevada Food for People, Not Landfill Program**  
*2020 Annual Report*



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# INTRODUCTION

In 2018, food waste was the third largest component of Nevada’s municipal organic material waste, about 24,488.91 tons. Several Nevada organizations, businesses, and state agencies are already working to reduce food waste in Nevada. Despite these efforts, Nevada lacked a state goal for waste reduction and a program to enhance/promote collaboration among efforts statewide. To address this issue, in the 80th Nevada Legislature Senate Bill 178 (SB178) was passed, establishing the Council on Food Security (CFS) and the Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNL) Program. The FFPNL Program was established within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food to hungry Nevada communities.

The Nevada FFPNL Program is administered by the Director of DHHS, with support and guidance from the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) and the Office of Food Security (OFS). To assist with development and implementation of the program, the CFS created the FFPNL Subcommittee in July 2019. Since its inception, the FFPNL Subcommittee has met six (6) times throughout 2020. The Subcommittee is comprised of various cross-sector partners, consisting of both voting and ex-officio members:

**Jodi Tyson, Chair**

*Three Square Food Bank*

**Brittany Price**

*MGM Resorts International*

**Marie Baxter**

*Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)*

**Steve Schmitt**

*Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)*

**Devin Wilcox**

*Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)*

**Diana Barrett**

*Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV)*

**Amanda Jerzak**

*Three Square Food Bank*

**Liz McMenamain**

*Retail Association of Nevada (RTA)*

The Subcommittee is tasked with the following:

- establish goals and objectives for the ensuing five (5) years to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills and use to increase food security in Nevada;
- establish the criteria for eligibility for a food donor to participate in the program; and create an official seal for the program.

Despite barriers due to COVID-19, the FFPNL Subcommittee has made significant progress developing the FFPNL Program. This report outlines the progress on the development of the program throughout 2020 and next steps.

# FOOD WASTE IN NEVADA

*[Summarize NV food waste data/data gaps]*

Ultimately, the FFPNL Subcommittee agreed developing a true edible food waste baseline is not possible at this time, due to lack of data and funding to conduct a comprehensive statewide food waste assessment. The Subcommittee agreed to focus the program baseline on food donations; focusing specifically on food donated that would otherwise be diverted to a landfill.

# 2020 FFPNL PROGRAM PROGRESS

## **Food Rescue Categories**

At the February 2020 FFPNL Subcommittee meeting, members identified three (3) food rescue categories which encompass the scope of the FFPNL Program. Data collected under each category will be used as the FFPNL baseline and to set the program's five (5) year goal as required per SB178. The categories and characteristics of each category are outlined below:

### **Category 1: Perishable Prepared Food**

*Characteristics of food in this category:*

- Food that is temp sensitive and must be quickly consumed or flash frozen
- Bulk food that is temp sensitive and must also be packaged into usable portion amounts
- Planned rescue that requires food bank/agency labor within a short window

*Included in this category:*

- Banquets, events, concessions
- Restaurants

### **Category 2: Perishable Non-prepared Food**

*Characteristics of food in this category:*

- Food that is individually sold as grocery/retail product
- Bulk food that is already frozen or dry but is pre-packed and needs only a scheduled pick up
- Food that is in small, moderate or large amounts that are pre-scheduled on regular routes

*Included in this category:*

- Gleaning/agricultural
- Grocery retail
- Emerging retail
- Vendors/food production

### **Category 3: Non-perishable Food\***

*Characteristics of food in this category:*

- Food resourcing based on circumstances that are unusual or irregular
- Canned, packaged, dry goods

*Food included in this category:*

- Grocery retail
- Emerging retail
- Food shows
- Vendors/food production

*\*Donated food procured from community food drives will not be included, as some of those foods are purchased for donation and not to divert food from landfills.*

## 2019 Food Rescue Data

Throughout 2020, the FFPNL Subcommittee collected data on the pounds of food received from donors that would be otherwise destined for the landfill. Initial data was collected from Three Square Food Bank, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), and CCNN. Among these three (3) organizations, 32,581,456 pounds of food (or 27,148,215 meals) were donated throughout 2019, from 688 donors.

### Three Square Food Bank

Category	Pounds	Meals	Donors
1: Prepared Perishable Food	82,189	68,491	16
2: Perishable Non-prepared Food	10,006,473	8,338,728	349
3: Non-perishable Food	9,810,511	8,175,426	N/A*

\*Most of these donors overlap the other two buckets. The additional donors are mostly donors of beverages – Niagara, Nestle Water, Bonanza Beverage, Premium Waters, Pepsi, Coca Cola, etc.

### FBNN

Category	Pounds	Meals	Donors
1: Prepared Perishable Food*	N/A	N/A	N/A
2: Perishable Non-prepared Food	9,804,084	8,170,070	164
3: Non-perishable Food	2,868,812	2,390,677	151

\* Food Bank of Northern Nevada does not rescue or receive food that falls into Bucket 1. FBNN does not have the equipment or resources to accept and properly store food within Category 1.

### CCNN

Category	Pounds	Meals	Donors
1: Prepared Perishable Food	9,387	7,823	8
2: Perishable Non-prepared Food	N/A	N/A	N/A
3: Non-perishable Food	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Cumulative

Category	Pounds	Meals	Donors
1: Prepared Perishable Food	91,576	73,314	24
2: Perishable Non-prepared Food	19,810,557	16,508,798	513
3: Non-perishable Food	12,679,323	10,566,103	151

The FFPNL Subcommittee will continue to collect statewide donation data for a comprehensive donation baseline, to establish the FFPNL five (5) year goal.

## Food Rescue Opportunity Gap

Throughout 2020, the FFPNL Subcommittee worked to identify opportunity/data gaps to assess untapped sectors for food rescue partnerships, particularly in rural and frontier Nevada counties. Through outreach efforts by CCNN and Three Square Food Bank, an environmental scan of existing donation partnerships was conducted between October and December 2020. This environmental scan shed light on opportunity gaps to explore.

### *[Summary of environmental scan results/findings]*

The steps for estimating the amount of surplus food that potentially could be available for rescue from selected sectors of the local food economy is outlined below:

1. Identification of relevant businesses and institutions located in Nevada
  - a. The following sectors have been identified:
    - Colleges & Universities
    - Correctional Facilities
    - Events & Recreation Facilities
    - Food Manufacturing & Processing
    - Food Wholesalers & Distributors
    - Grocers & Markets
    - Health Care (Hospitals and Nursing Homes)
    - Hospitality (Hotels)
    - K-12 Schools
    - Restaurants & Caterers
2. The percentage of providers we include as potential food donors (i.e. the participation rate)
3. Metrics to quantify how much surplus food potentially could be available for donation from those business and institutions (i.e. the donation rate)
4. Estimated amounts of food that are currently being donated by these sectors. By deducting amounts currently being donated, we arrive at the “untapped potential” for increased food donation.<sup>1</sup>

Efforts to identify the food rescue opportunity gap will continue in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/modeling-potential-increase-food-rescue-report.pdf>

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The FFPNL Subcommittee agreed to first develop [X] goals aimed at establishing the foundation of data and information necessary to create the five (5) year goal: *[list goals]*. The Subcommittee also agreed that the overarching FFPNL goal should align and support existing international efforts, established by the United Nations, as outlined in their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda's 17 Sustainable Development Goals can be found [here](#).

Goal 1:	
Objectives	Activities
1.1:	1.1.1:
	1.1.2:
	1.1.3:
1.2:	1.2.1:
	1.2.2:
	1.2.3:

Goal 2:	
Objectives	Activities
2.1:	2.1.1:
	2.1.2:
	2.1.3:
2.2:	2.2.1:
	2.2.2:
	2.2.3: